

Lazy Dungeon Master - volume 12: The Saintess

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The Saintess 1

Several days after I started various experiments with Rin. As the village sub-chief, the bar master paid me a visit.

“Kehma-san, an adventurer accepting the subjugation commission arrived, could you go and give a word of greetings as the village chief?”

“... Troublesome. How about you give the greetings, as the village sub-chief? I’m just a figurehead after all~”

When I said that, the village sub-chief refused in regret.

“I can’t do that. This person is the Holy Kingdom’s Saintess-sama... if we do not correspond with this properly, it will become an even more troublesome matter. Besides, there is some sort of matter she wishes to talk about...”

“... I see. I don’t know what kind of thing the Holy Kingdom is, but it looks like it really is troublesome. So, what’s the Holy Kingdom?”

“You... don’t know?”

And so he briefed me about it.

The Holy Kingdom’s something of a religious nation. And it appears to be the empire’s bordering country.

The saintess was one of the Holy Kingdom’s symbols, a woman who held the power of a strong saint.

When I stealthily checked out the map, there was an existence in the adventurer guild that was worth 250 DP per day.

... So that person’s the saintess, huh. Wait, doesn’t it feel like this course of events already happened back with the hero?

“And that is the situation... For Saintess-sama to come here... it might be to flip over this village from its roots.”

“Huh? How so?”

“The Holy Kingdom’s religion is the Light God’s Decree... The Light God’s Decree thoroughly denies the existence of dungeons, things made by demons... If Saintess-sama somehow captures the dungeon, this village’s reason for being

here will vanish."

That's bad.

"This dungeon is the empire's property as well, wouldn't it turn into an international problem?"

"It will, but don't you think that Saintess-sama would disregard it and carry out her beliefs?"

... So she's a religious nut? Probably. Religion is scary.

But for her to be 250 DP, Rin really is an overwhelming existence. It might unexpectedly be possible for her to be on even footing against Rin because she's its weak point.... but it'd be ideal for them to destroy each other.

"... Got it. For now, how about I go and greet her?"

"Yes! Thank you, village chief."

Because of that, it was decided I would talk to her as the village chief. Seriously, I thought I was just the bobble head chief, I shouldn't have to be working here!

Though I guess greetings might be jobs for figureheads, huh.

I want to get back to sleep.

"Nice to meet you, Saintess-sama. I am Kehma."

"The same to you, Village Chief-sama. I am Alka Lu Nike Hydride. Please call me Alka."

Me and the saintess with a needlessly long name met in the parlor of the village chief's residence.

Alka smiled, her long and emerald green hair gently spilling downwards.

She looked something like a gorgeous nun. I think this is the first time I've seen something like green hair, this world included.

"No no, it would be too much to call Saintess-sama by her name. Moreover, this is our first time receiving you as a guest..."

"Alright. It's rushed, but should we negotiate the reward?"

Well that was sudden. Is she unexpectedly a bit worldly-minded? Or maybe she's used to acting as an adventurer?

Staying alert against the saintess' jabs, I responded.

"Oh course."

"Then, about the reward... on the morning of the threatening monster's subjugation, I would like to gain the right to destroy the dungeon core. I do not need anything else."

Yeah, no.

"That is impossible. That's as though you are telling this village's people to die. As the village chief, I cannot accept that at all."

"Isn't it the same this if you allow this monster to continue on and do as it wishes? Consequently, that would allow the monster to kill everyone... Of course, the movement from the village will have the backing of the Holy Kingdom."

Rather than it being ordinary work to destroy the dungeon core, she would even pay money for it. But still, no. I'd die.

"This village still hasn't been given a name yet, isn't now the best time to leave?"

"..."

Come to think of it, it still doesn't have a name. Even though I'd told Gozoh to think of one...

According to my announcement of Gozoh+Roppu's Love Love Village, it'd be shortened to Go+Ro's Love Village (temp) huh.

While I was thinking about that, the saintess probably took it as me thinking about the offer and pressed on.

"Come now, you will have reasonable financial compensation if you do it now and could even be a candidate to migrate to the Holy Kingdom. You are the village chief, so should I prepare a second class area for you?"

"Second class?"

Too stingy for first class huh. Well, maybe that's as much special privilege you'd get for being a village chief in an unnamed village.

"Yes, a place that you wouldn't be able to live at even with three hundred gold. You can go there through my mediation as a saintess. Please, show your thanks."

“Heeeh, so that’s how it is~”

I don’t understand it too well, but that doesn’t matter. In other words, this saintess is of the relatively discriminatory type.

“Then, since our talks are settled...”

“Ah, nope. Sorry if it isn’t possible for you to accept it with the usual remuneration, it looks like it just isn’t meant to be...”

“Wha—!? Y-you know what the Holy Kingdom’s second class is right!? Is it that you want more!?”

“No, not really.”

“N-no!? Y-you’re saying... you don’t want to have a Holy Kingdom second class area!?”

When I responded, the saintess opened her eyes wide in surprise. She seriously didn’t expect it, that’s what her eyes were saying.

Even if it was bait, it’s not worth my life.

“I-I was rude. Phew... right, so you don’t want it? Hmm...”

Taking a deep breath, the saintess seemed to be thinking about something.

“Well, if if you cannot accept the commission with the usual reward, there is nothing that can be done here... I absolutely cannot hand over the right to destroy the dungeon core.”

“... I understand. Well then, excuse me.”

Saying that, the saintess stood from her seat and started to leave the room.

... Since she was looking around as though to take small peeks at me, I decided to definitely not stop her.

She’s waiting for me to call out for her to wait with something like, “With those conditions, after all—!”. I don’t know if she herself was intending to bargain, but she was incredibly obvious.

“... He—”

“What’s the matter? Did you leave something behind?”

“No...”

Three minutes later, the saintess finally made her way out of the parlor. She waited outside of the room for seven minutes after that for me to chase after

her. It took a good ten minutes after that for her to leave the village chief's residence.

I wanted to shout for her to just hurry up and leave.

The Saintess 2

“The Holy Kingdom’s second class area, is it? They must be willing to go to some lengths as well.”

Rather than Rokoko, the one to say that was the village sub-chief, who I’d been sitting with for a moment.

Yep, I mean, I’m some kind of ornament right? Couldn’t you have made an appearance earlier? You’re completely erasing your presence, you know? This village sub-chief, while just listening to the conversation and being the bar master, was excelling at using the art of fading into the background.

“Second class, huh. I wonder which is more comfortable between our inn and it...”

“... I wonder? That’s difficult to say. However, personally, I think I would be happy with being able to have three days of all-you-can-eat at the inn.”

Three days over permanent residency? So in other words, it’s not in the same league at all.

Well, it’d just be getting the right to live there, so normally thinking you’d still need living expenses... I get the feeling that someone would be able to live comfortably for years if they embezzled the support money?

“So what will you do, village chief?”

“There’s not even a need to ask that, I’ll go with what I said to Saintess-sama... However, it wouldn’t be good at all if Saintess-sama just went into the dungeon and captured it...”

“Saintess-sama is a B-rank adventurer as well as an aristocrat, she shouldn’t do that much without permission...”

“Would she be able to avoid international troubles from something like a village chief’s permission?”

“It could probably be used as an excuse if they got the okay from our side? Or maybe it’s for their own consent needs?”

Their own rules, huh. It’s the same for me, people that try to take my stuff and people that waste food, as well as people that try to get in the way of my sleep...

I've decided it's fine to kill them in the dungeon.

"In any case, I'm not giving her permission."

"Right, the dungeon's profits will continue from now into the future. It would be a poorly thought out idea to exchange that for a single burst of money."

Looks like the village sub-chief's thoughts are in about the same area as me. Truly a reliable village sub-chief.

Even if I weren't here, he'd definitely manage things properly... What was his name again? Wozuma or something? Right, let's go with properly using his name next time?

"For now, Saintess-sama should be staying at the inn, how about we give her a warm welcome?"

And so, Saintess-sama stayed in the suite, had a B-rank meal, and enjoyed a bath.

The next day. Saintess-sama came again. Compared to yesterday, she has a huge smile.

"Thank you for your hospitality. Fufufu, you seem to be skilled at getting by in the world..."

And there's the grand misunderstanding. The inn is a business, if you provide the money, we'll provide the service in proportion to the money. She should have paid in advance, how'd she misunderstand?

"My attendant also said that they were very comfortable."

"Really? That's good."

She had an attendant with her? Even if she's a saint, a woman traveling alone would be... Ah, maybe the attendant paid the money? Then maybe the attendant wasn't staying together with her and used a general room instead of the suite? Rather, was it even alright for the attendant to not attend the discussion?

"No no, the inn is a business after all. Our services simply correspond to the amount of fees paid."

“Let alone for the season, I never expected such a rural area to give this sort of reception... Fufu, I understand. In addition to mediating a second class area in the Holy Kingdom, I will provide fifty gold coins as well.”

Isn’t that just two day’s stay in the inn’s suite (meals excluded)? The loose change feels like it’s increasing... no no, wouldn’t that be like fifty million yen? That’s a magnificent amount of money...

Rather, the suite is super expensive! I don’t plan on cutting the price because that would make Haku-san lose face though.

“Then could you please hand over the dungeon core’s destruction rights?”

“Nope, I can’t. If you absolutely have to, please come back after obtaining the emperor’s permission.”

“...”

The saintess’ eyes look like they’re saying, ‘The heck did this guy just say?’ I’d prefer if she actually said it.

However, it should be clear that I can’t give her permission now. Please, hurry up and clear out Rin or get the emperor’s permission. You’re already in the red from being here and the reward should be five gold coins.

“... I understand, I will go to the dungeon for now.”

“Oooh, are you accepting the commission?”

“I will enter the dungeon as an adventurer first, I’ll think about it after that.”

Saintess-sama stood up from her seat and went outside. Today she just returned quickly without scuttling about.

Ah, thank you as well, village sub-chief. You can go back too. But you know, you could have participated in the conversation a bit...?

Rokuko came over when I returned to my room in the village chief’s residence.

“That saintess that came over today too... she seems like a nuisance.”

“Were you watching, Rokuko?”

“Yeah. Even I can tell that she’s a bother!”

Well, Saintess-sama showed up at the guild after that and went into the dungeon alone.

... Huh, what about your attendant?

As soon as I tilted my head to the side and thought that, the saintess died to a

trap on the first floor.

Eh?

When I opened up the monitor to see what happened in a panic, she was admirably skewered from one of the traps that shoots swords out of the door. ... W-what? How are you going to pay me back for all those expectations I had!?

Then, when I looked at our DP, it hadn't increased as much as expected. Then, the saintess' body turned into particles of light and disappeared.

"... Eh? Rokuko, did you do something?"

"I didn't do anything. Kehma, did you?"

I obviously didn't.

Just then, an existence suddenly appeared in the village area: [225 DP Per Day]. Moreover, in a room in the inn. I hurriedly opened the monitor. Guest privacy? That has nothing to do with it!

The green-haired Saintess-sama was stretched out on a futon in the room, along with a young person garbed in priest clothing.

[Alka-sama! Are you alright!?]

[... Yeah... Wha—!? Cent. This is...]

[This is a room in the inn. Please accept my humble apologies for the low-cost room.]

[No, it's alright. I let my guard down because it was the first floor of a new dungeon and was done in. I need to rest for a little.]

That was unmistakably the saintess. She seems to be a little weakened though...

"Kehma... what do you think happened?"

"I wonder... maybe it's like she said. She was [done in], so in other words... she can revive even if she dies, right? It looks like she really revived."

"What do you mean? This girl, the saintess is like Feni?"

That would be bad. If she can revive countless times like Feni, she can [Remember Death].

... The first death of an infinite reviver, huh.

In that case, she's a dungeon's worst enemy. Or maybe she's the best food?

Since she won't run into the same trap over and over, I'll have to make new ones every time... this is seriously troublesome.

Progress

Can she revive because she's a saintess? Or is it that she's a saintess because she can revive? I don't know, but at any rate, Saintess-sama can revive. The fact of the matter is that three days have passed and she's challenged the dungeon each day. She'd return by death and take a long rest in the suite each time. Her daily DP worth would lower ten percent each time she died, returning back to 250 DP after a while. We'd get about 1500 DP each time she died. I don't really get what kind of mechanism's behind it at all, but it feels like the same effect as Feni the phoenix's. Maybe it's some kind of skill? Rather, dying to so many easy traps despite being a B-rank adventurer. It doesn't seem like she gets caught by the same trap twice though...

"This world is managed by the Light God. Dungeons are things made by demons in order to hinder the Light God's management. That's why we must all destroy dungeons. So, will you please give me the right to destroy the dungeon core?"

"Nope."

While recovering, Saintess-sama visited me.

It's super annoying that I have to talk to her each and every time. Aah, there's no doubt about it... this girl's my worst enemy. Furthermore, since she was getting a hold of me through contacting the village sub-chief, he—Wozuma—had to take part as well.

"Whaaa... even though I preached to this extent..."

"It's because the dungeon is under this country's management. Oh, right, please get permission from the adventurer guild's guild head as well."

"... That's unreasonable. The dungeon is in your village, so it is your property as the village chief you know!"

No it's not! Well, it is, but that's not the point!

I decided to change the topic to avoid the subject.

"Come to think of it, didn't you come with an attendant? Where are they?"

"It's better if he isn't together with me. If I had to say why, it's to be safe."

“Oh, even though you are Saintess-sama... are you safe by yourself?”

“Yeah, he has a simple altar. As you know, saints can revive countless times so long as there is an altar.”

As I know, huh. I guess it’s well-known in the Holy Kingdom?

Rather, altars that get used as something like a safety zone for saints to safely revive at... those exist?

“I’ve never heard of that. Wozuma, did you know?”

“No, this is also my first time hearing it... Saintess-sama, I’ve never heard that before.”

“... Oh my, please excuse my rudeness. It is common sense in the Holy Kingdom.”

How would I know then? Either way, she just let the secret to her immortality slip. Or maybe she’s actually probing information from us?

Is it really common sense in the Holy Kingdom and she’s just careless...? She’s been looking to be careless so far, but I can’t put aside the possibility that it’s an act. Otherwise, she’s just too much of an airhead.

Even her obstinately trying to get my permission, she may have seen through me being the dungeon master... yep, that’s a scary thought. It’s scary that I can’t say it’s impossible.

However, if this Saintess-sama is seriously just an airheaded child, there’s no point in me being anxious... gah, she plays dirty!

Moreover, her coming and asking me to hand over the dungeon core’s destruction rights either directly or indirectly is extremely grating to my nerves. Village Sub-Chief Wozuma won’t even join in the discussion unless I pull him in either. Let’s split this hardship, alright? I’ll leave about a hundred percent to you.

We talked idly for about an hour after that with me being careful to not promise anything before Saintess-sama took her leave.

... And that’s how much of my sleeping time was taken away from me. Did she leave because she felt some killing intent building up?

She’d revive anyways.

Now then, setting aside the saintess, back to the black wolf, Rin. I’ve been sending messenger golems for it to eat as [Flavors] several times now.

Today, I decided to test what looks to be its weak point again today.

“Oooi, Rin. I came to play!”

[... Kuwaaaafu, what, Kehma? You’re here, again. What flavor, today? Can I taste?]

“Yeah, go for the right arm for now.”

I held out the golem’s right arm to Rin, who bit it off in one go. It doesn’t hesitate or hold back anymore. Even poisoned, the golem is an all-you-can-eat buffet. Well, I guess there’s not much to actually eat.

As it started to crunch the arm into bits, Rin’s face grimaced and it spat out the splintered golem arm. I stuffed plenty into the arm for today’s flavor. Plenty of salt, that is.

[Awroo? Peh, peh peh!]

“Oh? What’s up, Rin? Doesn’t taste good?”

[It’s horrible! This is not, a flavor...! You can just, go back, already.]

“Don’t say that, let’s talk some more. Some weird person’s been hanging around recently and stressing me out.”

[T-that so... that stress, so that’s why, there’s such a, bad taste...? Mmm.]

Salt. Yep, Rin’s weak point is salt. Although hydrochloric acid looked like it was going to be effective too, salt is the worst. I mean, it said that although the acid was a bit tingly, it tasted good.

It’s just salt, maybe it’s because it has a holy attribute to it? Like purification salt or something. Maybe it’s also that salt pulls away moisture from it?

At any rate, of the various things I tried out, the only thing Rin said was too horrible to eat was salt. When I fed it a full body with salt in it, it writhed and spat it back out. Today it did that with just a single arm of it.

Alright, let’s go with making a ton of anti-Rin iron armor with rock salt in it.

[Hey, Kehma. It’s already, about right, to call you, my follower, I think. Right?]

“Hmm? Really?”

[Really. You, give food, to me. Therefore, you’re my, follower.]

I get it, I have been feeding it every day after all.

Wait, no way... did I actually succeed in taming it?

[Moreover, even though, that was horrible, you don’t stop, bringing good

flavors. You're, a good guy.]

"You saying that makes it worth the effort."

[That's why, so that you don't, get any worse tasting... I'll help, get rid of, your stress.]

"Really!? Thank you!"

Then again, Rin is the source of about half of my current stress.

... Should I try asking it to move from this room? I've been thinking some excuse for it to move that's as gentle as possible. Right now's the only time I can use it!

"Aah, in truth, Rin being in this room is pretty stressing to me as well..."

[Mu!? My, fault!?]

"Yeah. Really, this place... is my toilet, you know? Since Rin's been here so long, I haven't been able to, you know..."

[Wait, wait. T-this is, your restroom? That's... err, golems use, restrooms?]

Oh, thank goodness. Since Rin itself didn't appear to need to relieve itself, I was a bit worried it wouldn't understand what I meant.

"Yeah... It's embarrassing, but this really is the place I use. Wanna see?"

[Eeh!? H-hold up, y-you don't need, to show me, that!]

"No no, you wouldn't believe something like a golem needing to use the restroom without seeing it right? Wait a moment, I'll do it now... hmpf!"

I had the messenger golem squat and took out a light magic tool in a manner so that Rin wouldn't see it.

Then, like that, I let it drop to the floor with a bang and shine.

"Phew, much better now. Here, check it out."

[Whaa!?]

Next, I had the dummy core retrieve the light magic tool... From Rin's point of view, it'd probably look like the the dummy core just sucked up a golem's excrement.

See, dirty right? Something you absolutely wouldn't want to eat, yeah? That was the feint.

After that, a message came in from Rokuko, who'd just retrieved the light magic tool in the master room.

[You know, Kehma... even if it's a dummy core, it feels horrible using a dungeon core like that.]

“It couldn’t be helped, endure it.”

I also thought it was horrible. It wouldn’t be effective if it wasn’t such a horrible thing.

[... U-understood. I’ll leave, this room... but Kehma, your, uh, feces, it shines... is it warm?]

“Yeah, it’s sticky too. Want to feel? I can do it again if you want? It’s hard to do it with someone watching, but there’s more where that came from...”

[No, it’s okay. I’m good... But, mmmm. Is there, a room, about this warm?]

“Hm? If you like it like this, I can warm up another room to be about the same. Give me a sec.”

[W-wait! Don’t, smear that stuff, in the room, alright!?]

Don’t say something so vulgar. Well, I get what you mean, so don’t worry. But you know, when you go and swallow things whole you get everything, feces included. I won’t actually say that though.

“I won’t. I’ll just mess with the temperature. Leave it to me.”

[That’s good, then.]

... I succeeded in taming Rin.

I unintentionally pumped my fists with the messenger golem.

The Saintess 3

Also on that day, Saintess Alka dove into the dungeon.

Saintess Alka, an existence that specialized in capturing a dungeon solo. Her excellence as a solo power was obvious, but she also had the super rare skill [Revival], so she'd revive even if she died. As she was able to gain experience through her deaths in the dungeon, she would be able to capture it sooner or later.

Since she could revive even if she died, she was able to acquire countless skills from expensive skill scrolls that wouldn't be used on common soldiers. In particular, she had an abundant amount of skills suitable for dungeon combat. Due to the [Storage] skill, she could dive into dungeons without worrying about food and drink. Due to [Healing], she was able to heal some wounds immediately. She even had some other skills like [Dungeon Trap Perception]. As its name implies, it's a skill that allows the holder to see dungeon traps.

Even so, something strange happened to the saintess in this dungeon. Despite having the [Dungeon Trap Perception] skill, it practically didn't work at all. She couldn't understand why. It wasn't an omnipotent skill like the light god's divine protection of course, it was imperfect in the sense that it wouldn't react to traps set by people... However, it'd normally find ten traps out of ten in a dungeon. For some reason, though, it was only finding three out of ten in this dungeon.

She'd been relying on the skill when diving into dungeons recently, but since it wasn't of much use, switched to looking for traps with her own scouting capability that she hadn't been using... It had been a long while since she searched for traps manually, so she got caught by more traps than she thought she would at first. The search was a slow process.

Most of all, since she could record traps she got caught by with her [Mapping] skill, she wouldn't get caught a second time. If she was able to solve a maze or labyrinth, it would perfectly memorize the path. She had negotiated with the guild to receive a map of the place when she

started, so the capture proceeded with relative ease.

The saintess passed through the second and third floors that were the labyrinth area.

(Just how many times have I returned from death...)

She paused a moment in reflection.

“... Time to move even farther in, is it?”

There wasn’t anything in particular after the labyrinth area. It seemed as though there were a riddle door there at one point.

Since she couldn’t find any traps nearby either, she kept advancing farther in. Something like the saintess stopping here wouldn’t happen. The only time she’d return would be in the case she captured the dungeon.

There was a spiral staircase when she passed through the fourth floor. As for traps... she wasn’t able to see any through her skill, but... considering how things had been going, there probably were. She carefully descended the spiral staircase—the wall shot out, almost pushing her into a free fall through the center. She ran down the stairs in a hurry.

No, let’s correct that. A stair broke under her foot and she lost her step. She fell.

“Ogufu—!? ■■, ■■■■■■—[Healing]...”

The impact broke many of her bones, but she wasn’t dead yet. The broken bones were healed by her recovery magic. She would have had to commit suicide if she weren’t able to recover... Once her injuries were mended, she would restart her exploration.

Her descent(fall) down the staircase completed, she went into the next room. The moment she opened the door, a warm and ominous air brushed against the saintess’ skin, giving her goosebumps and sending a chill down her back. Despite not being cold, this was caused by a feeling of blood thirst. When she looked, there was a black wolf.

An instant later, she saw the black wolf spring towards her.
She died.

“Kuwaaa!”

“Wake up, Alka-sama! Are there any abnormalities on your body...”

“... None... Fuu, so I died?”

The saintess woke up in the inn’s room. Her upper body had been bitten off and she was still conscious while being swallowed.

She felt her own body being chewed. It was a level of pain that no normal person would want to experience.

Even so, the saintess was calm. She was accustomed to dying at this point.

With the saintess’ lack of reluctance towards dying, she probably had a spirit so strong that it wouldn’t break even after tasting death countless times.

Or maybe it had already broken...

At least in the eyes of other people, the saintess could converse with people normally. She was a person who could open talks with others, so there was no problem.

“What killed me was the target... the one from the commission.”

“I see... will you be accepting it, then?”

“Well, let’s see how things play out for a little longer. I had also made it eat poison there, but... I don’t know if it was effective.”

The saintess wore various poisons on her body. Therefore, in the case the saintess ever gets eaten by a monster without a tolerance towards poisons, it would be her victory.

The poison was something she could use in an emergency to poison her opponents, as well as something she could use to kill herself if she fell into a situation where she wasn’t able to move. Other than those on her clothed, there were a few inserted into her body... Although she didn’t use it this time, there was even a delayed activation poison she’d use when diving into a dungeon to return her at a specific time.

“At any rate, we will see the results tomorrow. It would be great if this settled it, though.”

“I think that would be best as well.”

Her attendant, Cent, nodded to the saintess’ statement with a smile that seemed lonely.

Vanishing into particles of light after being ripped apart by Rin, I confirmed that she revived in the inn's room.

For now we should be safe today. Her daily DP income dropped to 225 DP today, too... I think her upper body got eaten, but maybe that's unrelated to it?

"Heeh, you already positioned that wolf in the spiral staircase area?"

"Yeah. Traps won't work on that saintess twice... So it's fine if we defend by just arranging stronger monsters. It'll be even better if we can overwhelm her without needing to resort to surprise attacks."

Most of all, from her standpoint, that'll make it feel like a brokenly balanced game. I had to go through so many hardships just to get Rin there after all, isn't this much alright?

[Ooi Kehma, with this, your stress, is it gone?]

Rin roared and called me.

... Good doggy. How about I send you a messenger golem filled with sweet syrup? From what I can tell, Rin loves sugared liquids.

Eh, what's that? The saintess didn't stay in your belly, but you felt a tingly sensation and a delicious taste, you say?

You liked it? Well then, you should keep on eating her whenever she comes by.

The Saintess 4

On the next day, the saintess was eaten by Rin a second time.

[This one's, like Kehma too, it's endless, food.]

"Keep on eating as much as you want~"

... Come to think of it, maybe the saintess doesn't have a holy attribute? Rin said she tasted delicious... I doubt it, but is she something like a black-hearted bitch? ... Or maybe food with the holy attribute just tastes a bit tingly?

Well, I decided to spin the 1000 DP gacha every time the saintess dies from here on.

Yep, the 1000 DP gacha.

Even though gacha is the reason I'm here in the first place, I haven't been using it at all.

... I prefer relative reliability, so I'm pretty bad at leaving things to luck. We haven't had extra income to waste so far so I haven't really felt like possibly wasting money on gacha spins.

But now we're getting twenty-five gold a day from the saintess' inn fees. With Rin's DP and the saintess' DP added on to that, we've been making a killing recently. It's been like a never ending comedy. We have enough surplus now to use even 1000 DP every day.

I mean, that saintess is loaded, isn't she.... Even with that, she was only flexible enough to offer three hundred gold coins? Stingy. That's twelve days of inn fees. Aren't you going to go past that here soon?

"So, let's see what comes out of the 1000 DP gacha."

As a classic example of a MISS, a scrub brush appeared... Isn't this like, 5 DP? The heck. Rather, stuff other than monsters can come out too? Didn't know.

"... A miss? Kehma is super unlucky~. Do it again, go for it, it's fine! Where's your passion, your fighting spirit!? Gugugu, uooh! Do iiit!"

"I don't get what you're trying to say at all."

Even though Rokuko's only ever spun it twice, she's trying to teach me how

you're supposed to go about gacha... She does have amazing luck though, what with getting another world's person and a phoenix her two tries.

Yep, let's have Rokuko do it tomorrow.

A knock came from the door, it was Ichika.

"Goshujin-sama~. Saintess-sama wants an audience~. What'll ya do?"

So the saintess came again... Haah, what a troublesome person I have to meet. She's probably here to report about seeing the commission's target. I guess her not coming here right after seeing it yesterday was to make sure?

"Unfortunate, Rokuko. Saintess-sama is here. Please head into the master room."

"What're you saying, Kehma. Even though we're together right now, you'd choose that saintess over me? Is she more important? Mou..."

"No, this will be billed to you as an extra fee onto your inn fees, so don't worry about. Also, there isn't another serving."

Of course, in this world offering bubuzuke doesn't mean 'hurry up and return', so it turned into a situation where we ate together normally. Hero Wataru would also probably be happy to eat it, so it's probably just wouldn't work in this world...

The Saintess 5

Sad news. The saintess completely fell for the game room's rat races. That saintess is surprisingly a worldly person, huh.

Until the day before yesterday, she would take a rest or visit the village chief (me) whenever she died, but recently—

“Goshujin-sama~, the saintess' here again~?”

“... I don't want to see her. Alright, tell her I'm already asleep and that she should go back. Moreover, I gave you this order while sleep-talking. I repeat, I gave you this order while sleep-talking.”

“Waa~, amazin' sleep-talkin'... There's no mistakin' yer asleep since yer sleep talkin' like that!”

I sent her away yesterday. Well, Ichika brought the saintess along to the game room in order to pacify her grumbles.

The result of that? “It's still resting since I'm not moving around,” she said and started playing. Turning into a prisoner of the rat race, she started holding onto her betting tickets for the race just like the other gambling adventurers.

“Bibibi! Let's go, Bibibi! It's my order! Ahh no, no! Why are you going the wrong way!?”

“It's no good, Saintess-sama. Bibibi has only ever won once. Bibibi's fails are pretty famous.”

“Really!? No wonder the return was so high...”

By the way, the one time was to revive someone on the brink of ruin after falling to a series of losses.

I place items in the dungeon. The villager adventurers collect items from the dungeon, exchanging them for cash. After they cash out, I collect a moderate amount of it back through their gambling. The money I collect is turned into DP used to prepare more items for the dungeon. It's a good system. I even get extra DP for them staying here.

Well, the saintess that came today had that sort of feeling about her.

“Five hundred gold coins, second-class land, and we’ll award you the rights to rat races. How about that?”

“I refuse... Ah, the race is starting soon. I wonder if Onsoku is racing today?”

She gave her concession a bit frank, that saintess is quick when it comes to things related to the race. Eh? You’re already heading back? Really? Please, take care.

... Amazing, Rat-donos. You guys truly are amazing subordinates. Please, hold back on winning and do your best in exploiting everyone.

Right, maybe I’ll use some dice to have her owe me next time she comes to intrude? Just like Hero Wataru.

That day, there was another visitor besides the saintess when I was lounging about in my room. It was the blacksmith, Kantra.

When I went to the dining room after inviting him in, Kantra was waiting with an iron sword.

“Ooi Kehma-dono! Check this out!”

“Nn? What, were you able to make a magic sword?”

“Fufufu, well this is a step towards it. This is thanks to me getting advice from Kehma-dono... I name it: Sword of Light!”

The sword that Kantra brought, its pommel was a light magic tool.

... It feels like he added a flashlight under the blade. Why’s it shining there?

“Rather, my advice... I thought you we were just talking about tamers, how’d that turn into a magic tool?”

“Ah, I still gotta try that out but.... there’re no good tamers around here. So I joined the idea with a magic tool instead.”

“A magic tool instead of a monster, huh?”

“That’s right! You knew? I tried making a magic sword by using cutting edge research to add magic tools to swords. But the endurance of the sword naturally goes down with making it like that and alchemists would be needed to make the sword in the first place. But with this method I just add the sword to a magic tool pommel made by an alchemist, so the blacksmith-made blade can be maintained to keep its strength! It’s revolutionary!”

That's revolutionary? Japanese people would just be like, "Well, let's try throwing it onto that."

Nerune, who was serving tables just then and heard that said, spoke.

"Isn't it more convenient just keeping magic tools as magic tools~, swords as swords~?"

"... Ah—"

Kantra's speech ended.

"T-that's also true. What Nerune-dono says is reasonable. Uumu, I thought it was ground-breaking though."

Umm, sorry for our kid. But a sword of light could blind opponents if used properly, maybe it's a good idea to try adding various things?

"More importantly, how did you get the magic tool? You were talking about an alchemist or something earlier, but did you make it yourself?"

"Hmm? Ah, yeah. I can make simple magic tools. They're no magic swords though, dungeon-made ones have better performance."

Was there a skill like that? Rather, you could make it with your skills as a blacksmith?

"If you don't mind, could you teach me how to make them? I want to make some."

"What, you're interested? Hmm... it's not really that good to spread it around, but it'll be alright if it's Kehma-dono, I'm in your debt."

"Yeah, I got it."

"... Then, how about we go somewhere else? The forge should be better, it has tools too."

Because of that, it was decided that I would learn how to make magic tools from Kantra.

If I apply how to make magic tools to making golems, I might even be able to make a [Golem That Can Use Magic]. I'm a bit pumped here.

I headed over Kantra's blacksmith shop. I brought Nerune along as well since it was related to magic.

Kantra easily gave the OK when I asked if it'd be alright to teach Nerune as well,

so her eyes started sparkling just by listening in from the side. But really, I thought you weren't supposed to spread it around...? Kantra is a dwarf that can't say no when asked, huh?

When we arrived at the workshop, Kantra took out pens, iron plates, and a few various tools from a locker and placed them on the table.

"Magic tools, as you know, are tools that demonstrate their effect by being filled with magical power. Making them isn't that hard so long as you understand what makes its core. Well, this guy is it."

Kantra held up a magic stone.

"A magic stone, isn't that the energy that operates magic tools?"

"Yeah. However, the main material that makes magic tools are magic stones. For example, a magic stone that comes from a water-type monster can be easily made into a water-type magic tool."

Saying that, Kantra ran his pen across the magic stone. When I took a closer look, the tip of that pen had written something onto the magic stone.

"The effect can be strengthened by drawing special figures. Draw them powerfully."

Then, he completely covered the magic stone with a geometric shape that looked like a triangle combined with a square.

After that, he marked out the same formation about ten centimeters away in each direction on the iron plate. He carved out minute images and characters seemingly at random...

"This one here, it's the shape that represents water-type."

He's doing some amazing free-hand here, oi. After that—

"This one's especially important. The trick for it's to draw it all at once really fast."

He pointed at a portion of letters, telling me to not make a mistake in the lettering... Ooh, I can read the letters he put:

[Pour Water]

[Convert Magical Power]

[Magic Stone Absorption]

Fuu, that's Translation Function-san for you.

"Well, if you draw the magic formation, it'll dissolve the magic stone here. Watch."

When Kantra placed the magic stone onto the magic formation, the magic stone melted into it.

The instant that it finished melting, the formation shone with blue light. It seemed like it entered a state where it was ready to be used. When he put a magic stone meant to be used for energy onto the formation, water came out from the place it was specified to.

If this is built into a tool, it turns into a magic tool. Kantra quickly turned it into a pitcher with skilled hands. He completed the magic tool [Pitcher of Spring Water].

It took around ten minutes start to finish. It was over in the blink of an eye.

"See, easy yeah?"

Kantra spoke with a smile.

—I don't get it!!

Making Magic Tools

It's good that I learned how magic tools are made, but I still don't get what's what.

I seriously have no clue what Kantra's talking about...

"I get it~, so in other words you do this..."

"Oooh! That's a good line! Good, good, run it along like that."

"Mmm, I want the fire attribute here~"

"Repeat just like that, go again... right, aaaaand, there."

"I get it~!"

And somehow Nerune's understood what he's saying. What's with this girl. I have a lot of excellent subordinates don't I~, it'll be fine doing nothing and just leaving it all to them~

"Sensei~! There's that feeling heeere!"

"What a wonderful assistant! Right, the magic formation's free, so do what you want!"

And now Nerune's somehow Kantra's assistant, calling him sensei.

Rather, whatever she wants? You sure about that?

"Then then~! Let's engrave it onto my bodyyy! Wouldn't that be cool~!?"

"Ooh! That sounds painful! You're a girl, cut it out!"

What the heck made you feel like putting a magic formation that shoots out water onto a body... well, it'd be useful on a golem's body or something... yep, maybe I could turn a magic tool into a golem? I'm concerned about whether or not it would interfere with the golem magic formation, but it should be fine if anything goes.

"It'd be helpful if was an amplification magic formation though~... why not go for it~?"

"Hmph, but I've never carved a magic formation onto a person's body before. Assistant! Carve a bit onto me! It'll be fine on the chest since it won't affect my work, so take off some skin with the knife..."

“Yes~! Here I come~!”

“Guah—!? Ow—!! But I won’t give in—!!”

Oi, seriously, the heck are you guys doing? All I’m seeing here is someone stabbing someone else with a knife... rather, she is actually stabbing him...

“Ha—! I lost myself for a little~. Sorry, master~”

“No, it’s fine... alright, get to the point that you can make magic tools if you want to.”

“Leave it to me~!”

Nerune smiled... while still holding a bloody knife up front of her. Oh no... this girl’s a mad scientist type, isn’t she...?

“O-oi, finish your work. The pain is bad but not finishing is worse.”

“Ah, okaaaay, sensei~”

Turning around abruptly, Nerune continued placing the knife in her hand into Kantra. Yep, that’s stabbing~

Well, she’s having fun, so I’m going to head back. All things considered, it looks like Nerune has talent in making magic tools. Please make me some magic tools later. Her race being apprentice witch wasn’t just for show, huh.

Come to think of it, I need to actually learn about this world’s writing system before thinking about learning the magic formations and characters used to make magic tools huh. Sounds troublesome. Pass.

Let’s leave it to Nerune, yep.

Since the saintess got gobbled up two times with yesterday and today, Rokuko spun the 1000 DP gacha.

The results—

“Oh, a dummy core! I know because I know a lot about dungeon cores!”

“This dummy core looks purple. Almost like it’s poisonous, why’s the color different?”

“I wonder? Maybe it feels sick or something?”

“... Didn’t you know a lot about dungeon cores? Rather, they turn blue when they feel sick?”

Along with the purple-shining dummy core—

“This is... I don’t really get it, but it’s a skill scroll... a scroll of [Chef]? I haven’t heard about that skill.”

“... It looks like a skill that Kinue-san would use.”

It was a mysterious skill scroll.

Both of them seemed to be worth more than 1000 DP though. That dummy core’s worth around 5000 DP... it’s purple for some reason though... and that skill isn’t in the catalog. What’s with her luck? There’s no way her status’ luck level is anything but crazy.

Well, considering her life till now, she needed that luck to just stay alive...

“Let’s assume this skill will go to Kinue-san, but for this dummy core... a spare, I guess? We can put in a new core room somewhere after the new riddle area’s interior finishes, just keep it in the master room’s warehouse for a while.”

I’m getting a bad premonition, but there’s nothing to do about it for now. I get the feeling that we shouldn’t use this dummy core if possible.

Alright, time to ignore it. Let’s pretend we never saw it.

As I was deciding that, Rokuko poked me in the side.

That tickles, what’re you doing?

“Hey, Kehma. What about Rin? Will you put it under the dungeon’s control?

“Huh? Under it’s control? What does that mean?”

“Hey, weren’t you listening just now? It’s the same with how monsters that get summoned with DP, you can have them obey orders and deploy them.”

“Aah... I didn’t know we could do something like that, tell me something like that sooner!”

Rokuko taught me about it boastfully.

Putting a monster under our control requires its acceptance. Furthermore, it’s apparently no good trying to do it without them knowing exactly what it means to be placed under the dungeon’s control... tricking things won’t work.

There’s also a method of forcibly putting something under our control. We just need to make them surrender; this method is for placing monsters that aren’t intelligent under our command.

But we'll also stop getting DP from monsters under our rule... I wonder why?

"Haku Ane-sama taught me."

"Heeh, thought so."

... It would hurt to lose 950 DP a day. Isn't it fine to just leave things going how they are? Thanks to it we're steadily accumulating a lot of DP. Together with Rin Fever, I have Saintess Fever too.

Well, there's a limit to turning things into followings. It'd be hard even just saying whether I could get it to surrender.

Maybe it'll be fine just leaving it as is... It's probably no good, but how about I go talk to Rin about it?

Nerune's Laboratory

Well, I decided to go straight to ask Rin whether or not it'd accept our control.

[Refused.]

It responded immediately.

"That so? It'd be a great help if you did... but I guess you don't want to be my follower after all?"

[Yeah, Kehma is, weak, so no. Besides, when winter ends, I'm leaving, on a journey.]

Ah, so its just here for the winter? So it came to our dungeon just to wait out the winter huh.

... It couldn't leave the dungeon if it entered the dungeon's control? Wait no, doesn't Haku-san bring Chloe with her? Even Haku-san, herself a dungeon core, can go out, so it should be able to.

"Is there a reason for your journey?"

[... Yeah, to look for, master. Not, here.]

Master? So it's a married female?

[Yeah. Master could also, train when I find, master.]

I'd be fine entrusting the golem if he could make it stronger. But really, what kind of guy is stronger than Rin?

Now that the mysteries have deepened, I decided it's about time to end it for the day.

"Well then, go ahead and eat me. Here."

[Nnn~... no, I'm fine. Kehma is, my follower, after all. Besides, I'm not, hungry.]

"Really?"

[Yeah. Thanks, cya.]

Hmm. Did my intimacy level go up?

This was the first time I could finish a conversation with Rin without being eaten.

Well, it's a shift in topics, but it's about making magic tools.

It looks like Nerune figured out the basics, so she's gotten to the point of being able to make the kinds of magic tools Kantra knew: fire, water, earth, and light. That just means things related to elements coming out of simple magic formations, the so-called fundamentals of magic tools. I think that much is amazing enough though.

I decided to try it out on a golem immediately. I had her carve out a magic formation on an iron golem I'd prepared. Then, I completed it by melting a matching-attributed magic stone onto it.

The results:

... One that emits sand from its abdomen, a sand golem. It wasn't particularly useful other than being gritty.

... One that emits water from its knees, a water golem. It wasn't particularly useful other than for getting its feet wet.

... One that emits fire from its face, a fire golem... sorry, there wasn't any deep meaning to it.

... One that emits light from its right hand, a light golem. Hmm, it wasn't particularly useful other than being bright.

With that, four golems that weren't particularly useful were completed.

Concerning the fire golem, I just thought it'd be cool to have one that could spit fire like a flamethrower.

Though well, I seriously want a non-physical way for them to attack... I wonder how? The feeling's off.

"How should I say it, with their standalone power, they're strong enough to be dungeon traps... there's even a water one like the [Water Source]."

"T-theeese... are just magic tools made by a beginner like mee, they absolutely couldn't win against dungeon traps~. That would be like a new adventurer challenging god~"

That's true too.

Well, they do have the advantage of being able to be installed on golems... Yep, let's have these guys be a new series, the magic tool golems.

"The goal is golems that can use magic, guess we could call them gargoyles?"

“If it’s gargoyle, there’s already a monster named that~. They really are statues that can use magic though~”

“Ah, so they exist... Then magic golems, nicknamed gargoyles. Nerune, from here on I’ll be counting on you to research magic tools and magic in order to have golems that can use magic.”

“Okaaay, understooood~”

By the way, gargoyles are 10,000 DP each. And that’s just for the stone ones. Bronze-types are double that...

... So expensive. It’d be better making them myself after all.

“I’ll prepare magic stones and tools for your research. Ah, and make you a room too. It’ll be a room isolated from the dungeon, but I’ll put a dummy core there so you can get in and out.”

“Research... a room... A LABORATORY~!!”

Nerune’s eyes sparkled as she banzai’d.

“Master, thank you sooooo much! I’ll do my best~! I’ll do it~!”

“Y-yeah. Work hard.”

“By the way, just research magic tools~? Researching stuff like magic skill’s are no good~?”

“Nn? Hmm, right... Ah, then look into how magic skill scrolls can be made with magic formations, that’d be related too yeah?”

“I understand~! Nerune’s Laboratory: focusing on magic formation research~! I’ll study~!”

“Yeah, I look forward to your results.”

Nerune really is excitable when it comes to things about magic.

For her to be that happy about a laboratory, I guess apprentice witches love studying magic after all...

“Ah, sorry master. For study materials, I’d love some magic skill scrolls~. And~, and and~, only if you could, an assistant... is that no good~?”

Scrolls should probably be as expected for research costs. Let’s prepare a few low class ones like [Fireball] and [Light].

And an assistant, huh. Hmm... a goblin probably wouldn’t work. I wonder what would be a good pick, maybe another apprentice witch like Nerune? ... I prefer

keeping with going for diversity than getting more of the same monsters. Should it be another kind then?

“Then let’s go with giving the next monster Rokuko gets from the gacha as your assistant.”

“Yes~! Thank you~! Go, gargoyle~! Yay yaya, ooooh!”

Nerune was getting pretty psyched up.

Right, Nerune was happy when she heard about a laboratory, so she’ll definitely like a white robe. I looked for the outfit and bought it for 30 DP.

“Nerune, take this. It’s a researcher’s outfit. It can be worn on top of your clothes.”

“White... clothes~? That doesn’t feel very witch-y...”

Oh? She’s disappointed now, dang it.

It suits Nerune well though. So well that I want to massage her feet. No, I won’t actually do it though.

Let’s at least have Rokuko get a good assistant for her.

And so I looked for Rokuko. I found her immediately after looking at the map, though. She just finished spinning the gacha in the master room.

I said she could spin it once for each time the saintess died, so it looks like the saintess got killed by Rin again. You don’t learn huh, saintess.

... Moreover, a green dot representing an ally appeared next to Rokuko. Looks like she got a monster. I opened communications with Rokuko, who was in the master room.

“Oi Rokuko, can you hear me?”

[Ah, Kehma. I can hear you! I just did the gacha. Today’s spin was a monster!]

“Yep, that’s good. So, what is it?”

[Mmm, a gargoyle, some kind of statue thing.]

... The heck kind of amazing luck does this girl have?

The Saintess 6

The gargoyle wound up becoming an assistant, despite being research towards making the aforementioned gargoyle.

If anything, it's more of a super valuable sample than an assistant.

“I don’t understand master’s thought process~...”

I’m not at fault here, it’s because of Rokuko’s bad luck... no, good luck. By the way, the gargoyle is a stone demon statue with wings on its back. I wondered if it could fly, but they seem to only be for show. Don’t they get in the way?

The gargoyle doesn’t appear to talk either. It also seems to be the type that indifferently follows orders, like golems... The joints are fully connected like statues normally have, but they can still bend somehow. Even looking at it, it’s mysterious. It feels like ordinary stone when I touch it, the same as the raw materials I use for [Create Golem]...

“Well, researching progresses faster when it’s actually getting done. I set the laboratory up in the dungeon for now, so research magic tools as much as you want.”

“Thank you so much~”

Wearing the white doctor robe, Nerune answered energetically. For some reason, she looked happy even with the robe on.

There was some DP left over this time, so I also wound up making a room to use for moving around with the dummy core.

It was a pointless expense, but well, the dummy core was 5000 DP and the two rooms were 400 DP total, adding up to 5400 DP. Now that we have the saintess’ and Rin’s income, that’s somewhere around two or three days’ income. I mean, that saintess is spending twenty-five gold per day to stay in the suite. That’s enough to be 25000 DP just by converting it into DP.

Because of this and that, the saintess has already been here for around half a month and has become a terrific earner. Our storage is practically overflowing with gold coins. It’ll probably be alright even if we wound up using some as DP.

... Rather, setting aside her inn fees, isn't that saintess going to go bankrupt here soon with her gambling habits? It'll be great when she heads back to where she came from. What was its name, the Holy Kingdom?

The room is set up just above the core room... They're arranged vertically, but are treated as the same floor. If an intruder enters this room, they'd need to do something unexpected like destroying the core room's ceiling to get here. People that would do something like that without a hint for it don't exist.

"I'll also help out with the studying. There's [Create Golem] too after all."
"Oooh, with Goshujin-sama's [Create Golem] you could make golems that already have grooves on them~. That way I only need to melt magic stones on them~"

"... Reproducing those difficult shapes sounds like it'd be hard."

Also, don't you have to inscribe things onto the magic stone itself too? So much work...

Yep, just practice making water magic tools for now. I'll prepare a lot of magic stones. Using the options for the type of magic stone I want from the catalog, it's easy to choose what kind of attribute the magic stones come with. It's a bit late to say it, but DP really is convenient.

The saintess returned after being eaten by the black wolf in the dungeon on that day as well.

she wasn't feeling particularly off put though. The reason why? The inn's suite was just too comfortable, rather, she practically wanted to stay in the inn forever.

Furthermore, the inn had a game room that often held something called rat races.

Something else that was just as unbelievable was its meals, as well as its hot spring. The inn was simply too wonderful.

Winning a small amount from the rat race that had just been held, the saintess was cheery. She continued, squandering her earnings by betting it all on the proceeding race.

"Fuu, all things considered, this bedding is simply wonderful. I'd like it for my

house as well."

Drinking orange juice she'd ordered through the room service, she flopped down onto the futon.

It only cost a single silver.

Oranges were easily obtainable in Pavuera. However, it wasn't comprised simply of the fruit's juice, but with a generous amount of sugar, a luxury good. Given that, she agreed to its price.

Furthermore, the fee was subtracted from the gold coin the saintess' attendant had paid with beforehand.

"... Hmm, this Village Chief-san is obstinate, even though he has shown me so much hospitality... ah, did Cent pay the fees?"

Currently, the saintess had only been thinking about ways to somehow deal with that threatening black wolf monster and repay his hospitality. Even though she was paying money, she was being supplied with things from the village's precious winter supplies.

It might appear as though the saintess wasn't doing anything, but she was steadily memorizing the black wolf's movements.

After three days, she had gotten to the point that she was able to dodge its first attack. She was able to attack three times. If she could invoke the unique magical skill she had as a saintess by gaining more time, it'd be her win.

The monster was probably of the dark attribute. For the saintess, it was a very advantageous attribute for her.

However, the difference in the basic capabilities was so overwhelming that it was a trifling thing for it to kill her. She needed to gain more time somehow.

Following a knock at her door, she heard her attendant's voice.

"Alka-sama, do you have time?"

"Nn... come in."

"Excuse me."

Cent opened the door and came in.

(... Incidentally, what has this attendant been spending his time doing since coming here? Wha—no way, has he been at the rat race, playing this entire time...!?)

Thinking up to there, the saintess abandoned the idea. Such a serious attendant wouldn't do something like that, surely.

"So, what business do you have, Cent?"

"I am anxious about our remaining funds."

"It was the races after all...!?"

"? What do you mean?"

"Nothing. However, if it is about not having enough funds, it is necessary for us to ask the country for additional funding. I will write a letter, make certain to send it immediately."

"Yes, thank you."

Concerning the letter, it'd likely be delivered within a few days if they put out a commission for it through the adventurer guild.

However, it wouldn't be certain whether or not the commission would be completed. To be certain, she would put out multiple commissions.

"Now then, for the letter's contents... ah, yes. Along with noting Village Chief-san's hospitality, let's write that I still haven't received the dungeon core's destruction rights. If I go through the story from the start, I should say that Village Chief-san said he would hand it over after gaining the empire's permission."

"I see, in that case, we can translate that as Village Chief-dono wanting to hand us the dungeon core's destruction rights, but can't as they are handled by the empire. That should work well."

The saintess accepted her attendant's suggestion, including her remarks about Kehma's reception, and turned to speak to him.

"He is a very serious and good person, but his lack of flexibility could be called his only fault. It is a good thing that we can trust his diligence, though."

"He would be a good vassal. If he could be formally scouted and brought to the Holy Kingdom..."

"I'll include that as well... If I write five, at least one should make it."

The five letters written, all with the same content, she handed them to her attendant.

However, she was running out of funds that she should have prepared more

than enough of. Just where was it disappearing...? She'd somehow manage.

"Should I economize a little until the additional funds arrive...? It might also be a good idea to bring out some of those iron golems that I've been leaving behind. Would those help for meal fees?"

"Yes. I am deeply sorry for allowing it to reach the point of troubling you."

"It's fine, it'll be between you and I."

Then again, they had enough funds to stay through the winter by just switching the saintess' room from the suite to the standard room type, but there was no such proposal coming from her attendant. For the saintess that was doing such painful work by dying and returning, the attendant simply hoped to ease her mind even a little. He couldn't propose such a thing, nor did he wish to.

Once the saintess had made certain that her attendant had left with the letters, she laid back down against the soft bedding, resting.

Feeling her body sink into it, gently being enveloped, she—

"I still want this bed..."

—fell asleep, murmuring.

Fundraising Countermeasures

The saintess had written a letter. What should I do...?

When I took a peek, it looked like the contents were saying that I would hand them the dungeon core's destruction rights, along with requesting financial support, but... thinking about just how much DP and funds she was getting us, I can't say that it's much of a bad thing.

However, it'd be a seriously bad thing if the Holy Kingdom started watching me.

A dungeon that gains attention from the Holy Kingdom, whose doctrine says to smash dungeons... it'll have a lowered lifespan. Literally.

Because of that, I called Rokuko to make some countermeasures.

"Kehma, peeping into a room with a girl staying in it, is that sort of thing your hobby?"

She was looking at me with considerably cold eyes though. Vexing. It's enemy inspection, you know?

Yep, it's because she's an enemy. It's not like I wanted to obverse her well-shaped legs and shoeless, defenseless feet or anything. If I really wanted to, I could indulge in Meat or Ichika's, so it's not like I'm starving.

"So, a plan for what? To not let them get funds?"

"Good guess, Rokuko. That's right. Wait... no way, are you an impostor?"

"No, I'd obviously know that... the question is how we can stop them from getting the money. Replace the letters? Or maybe we stop their delivery?"

"Are you alright? Are you feeling sick!?"

Rokuko was being unusually bright. I placed the back of my hand against her forehead to make sure whether she was feverish or not.

"Hey, I'm not sick! Don't look down on me so much!"

"You were a little hot..."

"It's in your head!"

"That so? It's fine then. I was worried because you'd suddenly turned smart."

“I’m happy you were concerned though. Fufun, you could praise me more though you know?”

Alright, she’s back to Rokuko now.

“So, what will you do? Outside of the dungeon, it’d be hard stopping the adventurers’ deliveries after they took the commission. Right, we could take them when they are given to the adventurer guild.”

“Giving the guild liability issues sound like it’d be troublesome in various ways. Even if we replaced them, the letters are sealed with wax stamps...”

When she put the letters into their envelopes, the saintess stamped them with her seal. It’d be obvious that they were tampered with.

“For that, wouldn’t it be fine if Kehma’s magic fixed the seal? You could just break the seal then mend it after right? Ah, but if there is a magical effect on the sealing wax you can’t show your technique, we’ll need another one as well won’t we?”

“Oi Rokuko.”

“What? Did you rekindle your love?”

“You... are you the real Rokuko?”

“I am though!? So rude, even I think so!”

“Got it, well then show me your foot and I’ll confirm it.”

“You can confirm it with that!? Well, I don’t really know why you need my foot though... H-here.”

Taking off one of her stockings, Rokuko exposed her foot... Fuuu. I took my time validating it, but she’s the real one. In truth, Rokuko’s feet don’t have any beauty marks at all, but I know she’s her. To be accurate, I confirmed it by looking at the menu’s map function.

Well, I’d be in trouble if she were an imitator though. Did she eat something that appeared from the gacha, like a fruit of wisdom or something?

“No doubting it, you’re the real Rokuko.”

“That’s what I’ve been saying... so, does Kehma have a plan?”

“... Yeah, I do. I’ll put in a complaint.”

My plan was exceedingly simple.

We would also write five letters, mailing them to the same address as the

saintess.

Because they'd be the same address, adventurers taking the commission for hers would naturally take ours as well for the profits. The guild might even recommend people to accept them as a pair.

This way we won't have to obstruct the saintess' letters at all.

If it turns into a situation where none of the saintess' letters arrive, neither will our complaints, but in that case there's no problem at all.

"Heeh, Kehma's plan is different after all."

"But who would read a letter from a figurehead village chief whose village doesn't even have a name? That's the only hole in it. And so, Rokuko, you will do it."

"Me?"

"You're Haku-san's younger sister. That is, the younger sister of Haku Raverio, the empire's ancestor."

"Oh, I can borrow Haku Ane-sama's influence huh!"

Particularly since this is Haku-san's favorite place. There'd probably be no problem using her name for this... Rather, Haku-san's younger sister might be a more influential title than untactful saintess.

And because of that, using Rokuko's name, we prepared five letters to match the saintess'.

Its contents: [We are troubled by the saintess' wolfish devouring of our winter rations, paying no heed to the costs. We are selling things to her because it is business, but there is a limit to such things. Could you please tell it to her indirectly, as her country?]

It was a petition, one written somewhat grandly.

We'll seal it with wax and stamp it with the imperial seal.

In truth, it's something Haku-san gave us for when Rokuko write [Request] letters to her. Though we're using it to directly communicate with Haku-san through writing letters... borrowing something used to talk directly with Haku-san is very scary.

Then again, even if we'll be borrowing this empire's seal, I get the feeling it'd be fine since Haku-san said, "This seal is for Rokuko to use however she wants."

... If we send Haku-san a thank-you note from Rokuko afterwards, she'll

definitely be happy. Definitely. Yep. She'd definitely take advantage of it if I show weakness here, so I'll end it with a one-sided thanks.

Looks like the letters were finished being written while I was thinking that, all five are completed.

"They're perfect. Writing five letters with the same things in them is tiring though."

"Good work. Well, these will do something about the saintess' letters... I'll hurry out to make sure they are accepted with hers."

"Un, please."

The attendant had just left the guild, leaving the saintess' letters with it. I hurried to the guild, carrying the letters that Rokuko wrote.

The commission easily went through the guild's Receptionist-san, who requested the fee for the five letters... along with delivering them to another country, the fee was a little pricey due to getting the option for me wanting them to be taken along with another commission's, five silver coins in all. Five silver doesn't feel like much of an expenditure at this point, huh.

After that, the commission chart was affixed to the bulletin board. It was placed nearby the one for the saintess' letters, a bit above it to be exact. Like this, they'll probably be taken together.

Also, the task of getting to where the saintess' letters were being kept in the guild would have been a failure... They were put away in the guild's safe, so I wasn't able to retrieve them. Rather, there's a restriction making it so that I can't collect other people's things whenever I want huh... Well, if I were able to, I'd be able to go with the savage strategy of just doing something like taking a warrior's armor and weapon mid-combat.

Preparing letters ourselves was the right call.

"Fufufu, Kehma's plan was correct as expected!"

"Y-yeah."

I wasn't able to use her plan of tampering with the letters though... Rokuko seemed happy for some reason?

... But even so, out of money huh. How much longer will the saintess' funds last?

Maybe it'd be better to make a move in exploiting her.

A Cook

I had the silky, Kinue-san, learn the [Cooking] skill that Rokuko got from gacha. As for the results...

“You became good at cooking?”

“Also, the time it takes to cook has become instant... Relatively.”

From what Kunue-san said, along with compensating for her cooking, it also seems to stop time for everything other than her cooking while she is cooking. So the person herself will be properly cooking, but everything around her would see it as immediate. It also doesn't appear to work for anything other than cooking.

“... Even while boiling?”

“Yes, I can't do anything else. I cannot do something like room cleaning while it is boiling. But if it's something like putting away cooking utensils, I can do that.”

That's harsh.

But really, space-time magic that's limited by cooking?

First off, let's prepare some ingredients and see what it's like.

I took out a recipe and some ingredients with DP. She'll make strawberry shortcake.

I invited Ichika and Meat over to act as food samplers. I didn't call her, but Rokuko came too.

“It's a skill I got you know? Wouldn't I always want to see it?”

“Well, you would've come anyway even if there wasn't a reason.”

“... Rather, invite me properly! Wouldn't I feel like I was being excluded?”

Rokuko sulked. Let's call her over as well next time.

“I'll make it, then. First is the preparations and... done. I am finished.”

“Fast! That wasn't even ten seconds!?”

There was a beautiful strawberry shortcake in front of us. However, it wasn't that the cake had simply appeared all on its own. There were traces that the oven made from phoenix eggshell fragments was used as well.

It was sliced up immediately. White cream and yellow fluff, with a beautiful layer

of red strawberries on top. Looks delicious.

“It really was an instant. It’s more amazing than I thought.”

“Y’know, Goshujin-sama, could ya give Kinue-san to me?”

“To Ichika? Hahaha, of course not.”

“Tch, unfortunate~”

By the way, as far as the inn is concerned, it was decided that Rei, Kinue-san, and Nerune had all three come to be Rokuko’s subordinates. They were treated as my juniors.

Ichika was my senior in the respect that she had come to the dungeon before me, but Ichika is my slave. There’s no way I could do something like giving my junior to a slave.

“... From my point of view, an hour has passed since I began preparations. I think not being able to do anything but cooking would be hard for ordinary humans? I am alright with it because I am a housework fairy, though.”

“That’s... a considerably severe limitation.”

It’d probably be a godly skill for people that love cooking. I should say it’s the ideal skill for a cook huh? They could spend however much time they want on cooking.

... It’s a good thing I didn’t use it myself. It’d be different if I could have used it on sleeping though.

“Kehma, this is amazingly delicious!”

“It’s so sweet, like it’s melting, nom nom...”

Rokuko and Meat had immediately filled their mouths with cake. A great way to eat.

I’ll eat some too. Thinking that, I looked for the cake... huh, there’s none?

“Ah, sorry. This is the last piece.”

Right then, Rokuko was stabbing the final piece of cake with her fork.

“Oi, seriously? You guys really eat fast. I wanted to eat too...”

“There’s no helping it, then. Here.”

Rokuko came at me, aiming the fork-pierced piece of cake at me.

... Everyone’s lines of sight assembled towards me. This, is is that? The ‘Aaah’

encounter?

“Hey, open your mouth.”

“... No, hand over the fork.”

“If you don’t open your mouth, I’ll eat it!”

What kind of threat is that? But I want to eat cake... Kuh. As expected, Rokuko’s gotten smart. I wonder if something happened like her leveling up?

“I got it, now that it’s come to this I have to use my last resort...”

“Un, now, submissively be thrusted.”

“It’s bad for Goshujin-sama, but it’s Rokuko-sama’s order~. It can’t be helped~!”

All three of them attacked the new shortcake.

However, I simply allowed them to do it. As for why...

“I’ll take the remaining ones, then.”

“Fueh!?”

Rokuko’s cheeks were filled with shortcake. There were three other whole shortcakes... The answer why is simple. I ordered her to make four with my fingers. Our oven can easily cook four at a time after all.

As expected, they weren’t able to eat four more. I also couldn’t eat too much, so I wound up putting them in [Storage]. One will be a present to Rei and Nerune, who aren’t here.

I immediately isolated a piece with my fork.

Though it was true that the ingredients bought with DP were superior, Kinue-san’s skill in cooking was also really good. I missed this flavor, it’s like the cakes I had eaten before coming to this other world.

“Delicious. It wouldn’t even be outdone by the cakes sold in Japanese shops.”

“I am honored to receive your praise, master.”

Kinue-san bloomed with a smile.

“Gu, f-fine Kehma! But remember, this [Cooking] skill is something I got, in other words it’s my achievement!”

“Nom nom nom...”

“Ha~n, I ate somethin’ good, happiness. High class with plenty of sugar, too amazin’...”

Yeah, cake is a sugary luxury, huh. Let's sell some to the saintess. I wonder what cost would be good? About ten gold for a piece?
Looking outside as I thought about it, it was snowing.

Winter, huh.

... Ah, come to think of it, what did the village's name wind up being?
Ooi Gozoh. You sure you want to leave it as Gozoh+Roppu's Love Love Village~?

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Arc Twelve: The Saintess

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